c. 1914-15

St. Paul's United Methodist Church is a Gothic-style, concrete block building with a standardized exterior form and interior plan constructed on a town lot in Leonardtown, Maryland. Located on Washington Street and bordered to the south by the old St. Mary's Theater building and to the north by several one-story offices, the church exhibits the use of at least six different types of concrete blocks whose ornamental faces match those advertised by Sears, Roebuck, and Company of Chicago. Oral tradition notes that Lafe Graves, a builder, molded the concrete blocks on site. Another mass-produced material, pressed tin was used in the interior walls and ceiling of the church. The tin panels display a range of decorative motifs including fleur-de-lis and Greek frets. The skillful use of the blocks and pressed tin not only illustrates the possibility of inexpensive, standardized building materials, but also reveals their impact upon early twentieth century Methodist sanctuaries and buildings.

The property for the church was purchased in 1909 by the Board of Trustees for the Parsonage Property of the Leonardtown Circuit, Baltimore District, Baltimore Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church from Harry M. Jones for \$1,750. In 1961, a large Sunday school, designed by J. Raymond Mims, was added to the east side of the building. The church remained in their ownership until 1963 when St. Paul's Methodist Church, Incorporated received the property. The church changed ownership once again in 1991, when it was purchased by the Leonardtown Nazarene Church Foundation, Incorporated in 1991.

SM-274, St. Paul's U. M. Church

St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

<u>Historic Context</u> Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

**Historic Period Theme:** 

Architecture Religion

Resource Type Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Church

Known Design Source:

None

# MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-274 Magi No.

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

1. Nan	<b>1e</b> (indicate p	oreferred name)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
historic St.	. Paul's U. M. Chur	rch		
and/or common				
2. Loc	ation			•
street & numbe	r 340 Washington S	Street		not for publication
city, town Le	eonardtown	vicinity of	congressional district	3
state Ma	aryland	county	St. Mary's	
3. Clas	ssification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable	Status _X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence _X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owi	ner of Prop	erty (give names ar	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name Leona	ardtown Nazarene Cl	hurch Foundation, Inc.	., c/o Douglas Gree	ne
street & number	r Rt 1 Box 528		telephone no	475-2538
city, town	eonardtown	state	and zip code Mar	yland 20650
5. Loc	ation of Leg	gal Description	on	
courthouse, reg	jistry of deeds, etc. Sa	int Mary's County Cou	cthouse	liber EWA 606
street & number	r	·		folio 157
city, town $^{\perp_6}$	eonardtown		state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentation	n in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title St. Pa	aul's U. M. Church	(SM-274)		
date 1981			federalX stat	e county loca
.∕pository for s	survey records Marylar	nd Historic Trust		
city, town	Crownsville		state	Md
		·		

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	_X_ original site	
_X good	ruins	X altered	moved date of move	
fair	uneynosed			

Survey No. SM-274

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resources: 1

7. Description

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is located approximately 20 yards from the intersection of Washington Street and Fenwick Avenue on Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. The Church is setback about 20 feet from the street and occupies a 0.22 acre lot. The building is located between two driveways and next to a series of low office buildings and an old movie theater now the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Constructed in 1914-1915, the Gothic-style church is constructed of concrete block and brick, features a cross-gable roof covered with pressed-metal shingles, and follows a standardized exterior form and interior plan. A one-story, cinder block extension with a flat roof was added on the east side of the church in the 1961 to provide space for a Sunday school.

The west or primary elevation features different types of concrete block that change at several points along the wall surface. These changes remain relatively consistent around the entire church. The foundation is constructed using cobblestone molded blocks. These blocks terminate at a watertable that consists of panel faced blocks. Above the watertable are blocks that display a common rock face but also exhibit two different shades of colorone a darker grey than the other. These blocks terminate at the beginning of a series of windows where they are replaced by bushhammer blocks with a tooled edge. About midway up the elevation, these blocks end and several rows of grey colored stretcher-bond bricks with beaded mortar joints extend up to single row of ornamental rope face blocks. Above these ornamental blocks are a series of rows of alternating rock face and bushhammers. This soon turns into a few rows of all bushhammer blocks. After another single row of ornamental rope face, several rows of grey colored bricks extend up to the peak of the roof. The corners and the vertical edges of the windows all feature the use of panel-face blocks creating quoins.

The fenestration of this elevation features a central projection with one large pointed arch window flanked on each side by a smaller pointed arch windows, a secondary entrance with a single door near the north corner, and the primary entrance that consists of two panelled doors below a bell tower. The central window is subdivided into three pointed arch windows surmounted by a series of tracery. The stained glass windows have been replaced, however, with clear glass. Similar type windows can also be found on the north and east elevations as well. The bottom of the window is supported by a flush concrete sill, while the pointed arch features a similar use of flush concrete. All other windows and doorways feature a similar treatment. The two smaller windows exhibit stained glass with diamond panes and appear to have a movable lower sash. The single door sits back from the projection and is approached by a closed string concrete stairway. The double door features a similar treatment.

The north elevation features a similar use of concrete block and exhibits only one large pointed arch window. Below this window is a panelled door to the basement and two basement windows--each window composed of two, four-pane, casements. An interior brick chimney flue is also visible on this elevation. At the church's northeast corner, a

<u>8. S</u>	ign	ificance	Survey	No.SM-274
Period preh 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900	⊢1499 ⊢1599 ⊢1699 ⊢1799 ⊢1899	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		social/ humanitarian y theater
Specific	dates	1914-1915	Builder/Architect Lafe Graves, but	.lder
check:	ar Appli			

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church is a significant example of an early twentieth century building. The exterior form and interior plan, the interior pressed tin walls and ceiling, and the ornamental concrete block all represent early-twentieth century building materials and methods that relied on common dimensions and standardized plans. This combination of architectural elements not only demonstrates the possibilities of these materials, but also reveals the impact of construction standards upon religious buildings.

St. Paul's, located only one lot from the second place of worhip, Wesley Chapel (SM-530), represents the fourth permanently constructed sanctuary for Leonardtown's Methodist circuit. A comparison between the two buildings vividly illustrates the changes in exterior architectural ornament and interior worship space beginning in the midnineteenth century. While the older church featured a traditional, rectangular meeting house plan, St. Paul's interior exhibited a slightly descending, semicircular seating arrangement that focused attention on the minister who preached from a slightly raised altar or dias. This created an auditoriam-like effect. All of these forms and features can be found in architectural pattern books published by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Church Extension beginning in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The property for the church was purchased in 1909 by the Board of Trustees for the Parsonage Property of the Leonardtown Circuit, Baltimore District, Baltimore Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church from Harry M. Jones for \$1,750. The groundbreaking, however, did not occur until 1914. Lafe Graves, who according to oral tradition molded the concrete blocks on site, constructed the church. By 1937, the rear section of the church that had served as a Sunday School proved unsatisfactorily small and the basement was remodeled to accomodate this activity. This too was soon outgrown and architect J. Raymond Mims was retained to design the cinder block Sunday School addition in 1961. The church remained in the Circuit's ownership until 1963 when St. Paul's Methodist Church, Incorporated received the property. The church changed ownership once again in 1991, when the property was purchased by the Leonardtown Nazarene Church Foundation, Incorporated in 1991.

### **Major Bibliographical References** Survey No. SM-274 150th Anniversary: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1828-1978. Booklet, revised, 1983. History Files. St. Paul's United Methodist Church Office, Leonardtown, Maryland. **Geographical Data** 10. Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ 22 acres Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md Quadrangle scale $1:24\ 000$ **UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references Zone Verbal boundary description and justification List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries code state code county code code state county Form Prepared By Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor name/title St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning date October 1996 organization telephone (301) 475-4662 street & number 328 Washington Street Leonardtown state Md city or town The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated

Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (391) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCD 100 COMMUNITY PLACE **CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023** -514-7600

SM-274, St. Paul's U.M. Church St. Mary's County 7.1 Description

cinder block addition links the rear cinder block Sunday school to the church. While this addition exhibits no windows, the Sunday school, itself, consists of a centrally located door flanked on either side by three, two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash windows.

The one floor of the Sunday school on the east elevation does not inhibit the pointed arch windows of the church. The Sunday school features three bays--a centrally located door flanked on both sides by a two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash window. The church, meanwhile, features a projection much like that found on the west side. Within this projection are a large pointed arch window flanked on either side by a smaller pointed arch window. The projections on the north and south sides are also lit by a single, small pointed arch window.

The south elevation of the Sunday School consists of eight, two-over-two, double-hung metal sash and a single door located near its juncture with the church. The church exhibits a projection with a single rosette window (a window that features two ovals that intersect giving the appearance of a rose) and an exterior brick chimney flue located near its southeast corner.

Entered through the double-door at the southwest corner of the building, the interior of the church retains much of its original fabric. The double-doors lead into a small foyer. From this foyer congregants can either enter the main sanctuary or go through a small hall to another entry into the sanctuary. This hall also contains sets of folding doors that opens up to the main body of the church--effectively enlarging the space of the sanctuary. Before the construction of the concrete block addition this space served as the Sunday School. The sanctuary itself is focused around a raised dais or altar for the minister. This is set off from the benches of the congregation by a semicircular communion rail. The body of the church consists of several rows of benches accessed by two aisles and aligned on a semicircular plan around the center alter. While the church no longer exhibits its original stained-glass windows, the interior retains its pressed tin-wall and ceiling covering and its matchstick wainscotting. The pressed tin metal features several motifs including Greek frets, fleur-de-lis, and Gothic arches.

SM-274, St. Paul's U.M. Church

St. Mary's County

8.1 Significance

### Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: EWA Liber 606, Folio 157

Grantee: Leonardtown Nazarene Church Foundation, Inc.

Grantor: St. Paul's Methodist Church, Inc.

Date: July 3, 1991

Note: This deed notes that .22 acres was purchased for \$115,000. The Nazarene Church had purchased the church at an auction held by Harold Rodney Thompson. An advertisement notes that the rear portion or community hall was constructed in 1969 and not 1961 as noted in the church records.

Reference: EBA Liber 8, Folio 199

Grantee: The Board of Trust for the Parsonage Property of Leonardtown Circuit, Baltimore

District, Baltimore Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church

Grantor: Harry M. Jones Date: December 9, 1909.

Note: The deed notes the presence of several dwellings on or near the property. The land was

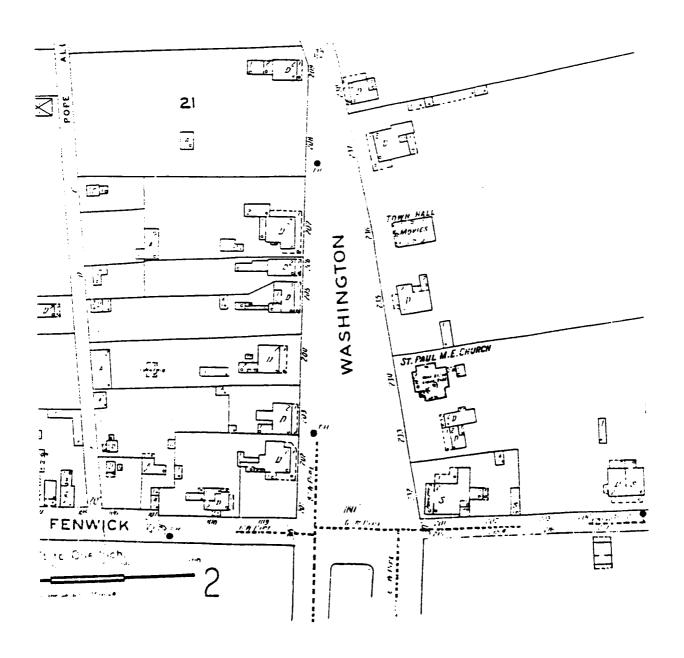
purchased for \$1,750.

Reference: EBA Liber 8, Folio 196

Grantee: Harry M. Jones Grantor: E. Leigh Morgan Date: November 26, 1909

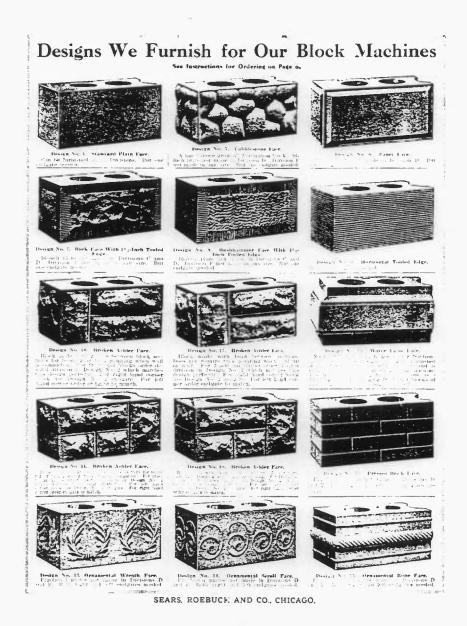
Note: The property is listed as containing 2/3 of an acre and was purchased for \$2,250.

SM-274, St. Paul's U. M. Church St. Mary's County 8.2 Significance



1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Leonardtown showing St. Paul's Church.

SM-274, St. Paul's U. M. Church St. Mary's County 8.3 Significance



Ornamental faceplates for concrete blocks featured in 1917 Sears catalog. From Pamela H. Simpson, "Cheap, Quick, and Easy: The Early History of Rockfaced Concrete Block Building" in Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, eds., (University of Missouri Press, Columbia MO, 1989), p. 116.

Wizard Block Making Outfit \$5750 8x8x16-Inch Outfit Including 25 Iron Pallets

"The Wizard Block Making Outfit" in the 1917 Sears catalog. From Pamela H. Simpson, "Cheap, Quick, and Easy: The Early History of Rockfaced Concrete Block Building" in <u>Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III</u> Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman, eds., (University of Missouri Press, Columbia MO, 1989), p. 113.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO., CHICAGO.

In 1873 Stephen Foxwell had donated land near Ellenborough for a new church, because the Methodist Wesley Chapel, built in Leonardtown in 1847 (now the Duke House), had been vandalized. The Leonardtown Methodists remained at this location until the present church was constructed in this more central location in 1914.

St. Paul's, built of cinder block and stone with a metal roof and small spire, is an example of a late Victorian church, already out of date when constructed. The interior has semi-circular pews, typical of turn-of-the the-century Protestant churches. The ceiling of the sanctuary is pressed metal. Various changes and additions have been made to the church over the years.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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CONDITION

\_\_FAIR

\_\_GOOD

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_RUINS \_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED

\_\_ALTERED

\_\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES 1914		BUIL DER/ARCHITECT		
		INVENTION		
_X1 900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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STATE	COUNTY
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ORGANIZATION	DATE
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

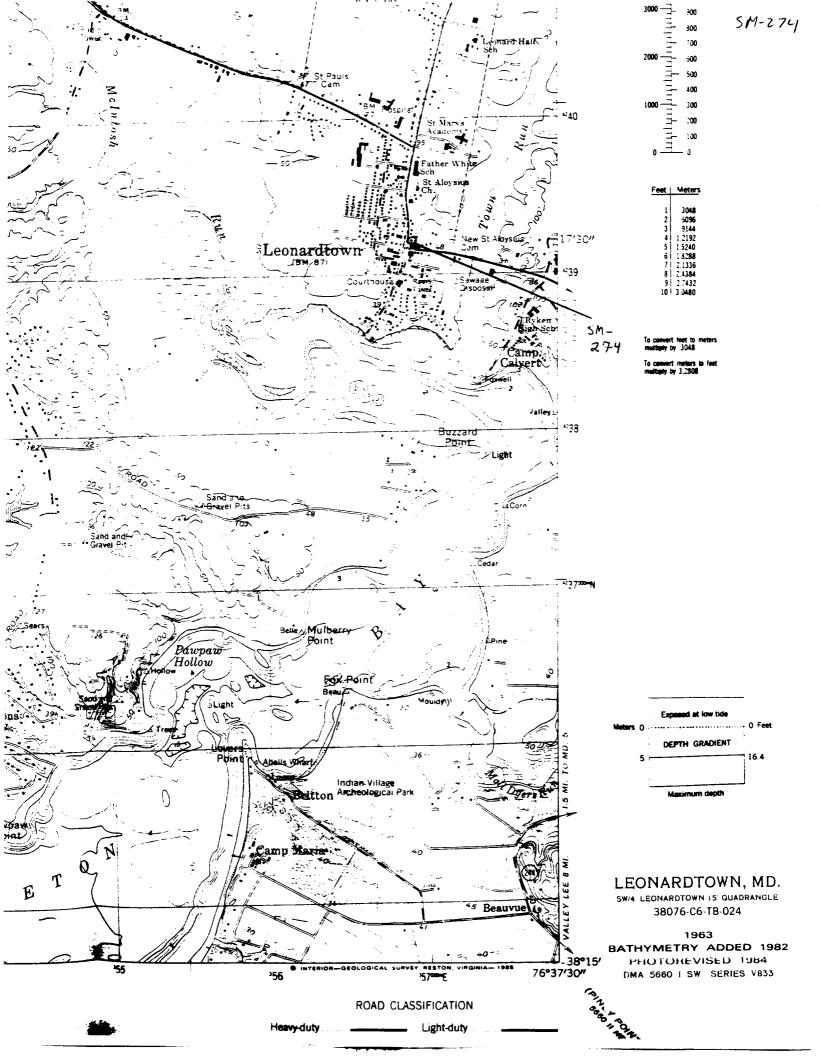
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

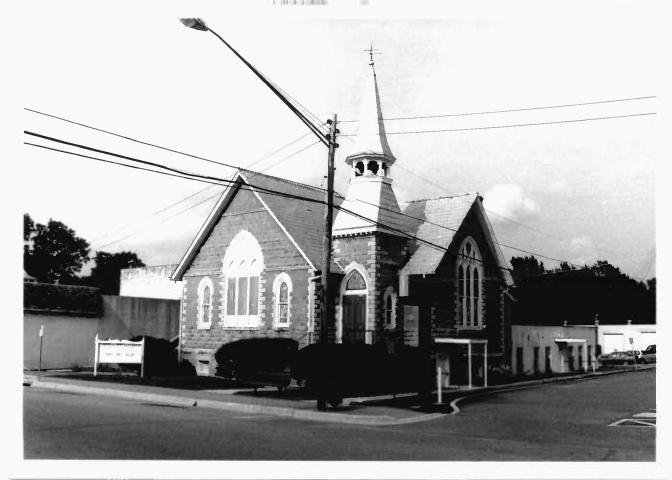
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

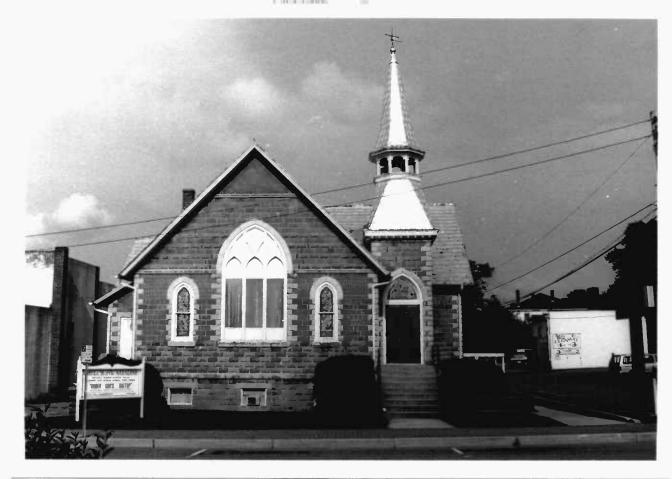
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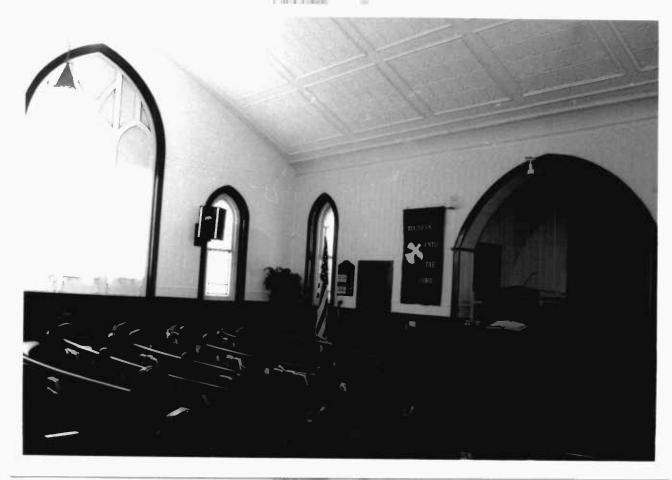
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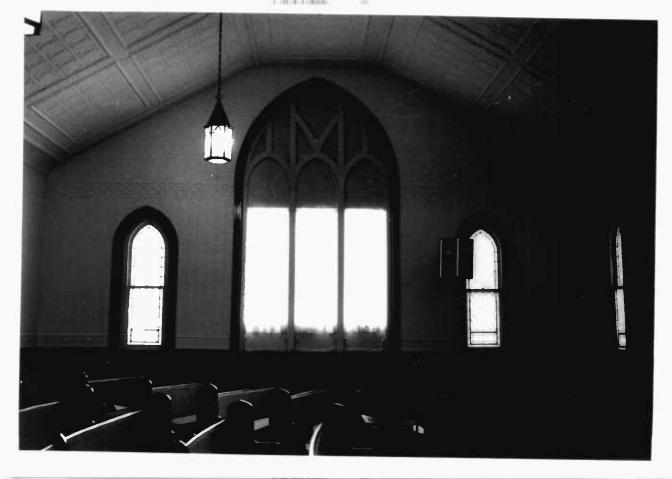


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St. Paul's Method at Church St. Marg's County Md. Kirk - Rinzett. October 1996 Md SHPO 8 of 9



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SM-274